

A. Ward Shaw  
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January 28, 2006

Mr. Kenneth R. Payne  
Chief, Marketing Programs, Livestock and Seed Program  
Agriculture Marketing Service  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 2638-S, Stop 0251  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D. C. 20250-0251

Fax: 202-720-1125

Re: Docket number LS-05-07, concerning the Soybean Promotion and Research  
Order (7CFR 1220) Federal Register, Dec. 2, 2005, Page 72257

Dear Mr. Payne:

As a soybean producer from Columbus County, N. C. and a member of N. C. Qualified State Soybean Board, I thank you for your willingness to review the operation of the Soybean Promotion and Research Order and giving me a chance to offer my comments. I support the concept of the checkoff, but think changes could make it more acceptable to soybean producers. Therefore I offer the following:

The officers and management of USB should be more open to share with states and producers their decision making process and why such action was necessary. Too many decisions are made behind closed doors, and not shared with their own board, states or producers.

A annual audit or review of USB by the states QSSB's and states associations. USB audit the QSSB's ever few years, therefore the states should be able to have some check on USB's accountable and expenditures.

The Act and Order established a cap on administrative expensive. Is this being adhered to, and what is being classified as administrative expensive?

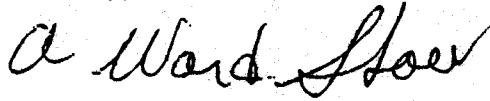
States should elect their own USB directors. This would give soybean producers a more direct connection to the way their checkoff fund are being used.

There is a belief among producers that USB does not treat all contractors equally. A similar expenditure may be accepted from one contractor and rejected from another. An independent review by the state association or QSSB's would help here.

The establishment of "United State Soybean Export Council" have raised many questions among soybean producers. Is it legal for USB to have control over USSEC? Producers question the wisdom of spending 4 to 5 million dollars of checkoff funds this way.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments, and I appreciate your concern that the small producer be protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A Ward Shaw". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

A Ward Shaw